



SOLAR/1014-79/02



### Monthly Performance Report

HEI WAI WONG

FEBRUARY 1979



### U.S. Department of Energy

National Solar Heating and Cooling Demonstration Program

National Solar Data Program

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### MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

### HET WAT WONG

### FEBRUARY 1979

### I. SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

The Hei Wai Wong site is a four-story multifamily housing complex in Honolulu. Hawaii. Solar energy is used for preheating domestic hot water (DHW) and laundry service hot water. The solar energy system comprises three distinct, essentially identical systems, only one of which is instrumented for performance evaluation. The instrumented system supplies preheated hot water to six apartment units and to the laundry of the housing complex. The system has an array of flat-plate collectors with a gross area of 807 square feet. The array faces south at an angle of 24 degrees to the horizontal. Water is the transfer medium that delivers solar energy from the collector array to storage and to the hot water loads. Solar energy is stored on the roof in a 1230-gallon storage tank. When solar energy is insufficient to satisfy the hot water loads, auxiliary water heating for each apartment is provided by electrical heating elements in individual 30-gallon DHW tanks. Auxiliary heating of hot water in the laundry is provided by a gas heater in the 85-gallon hot water tank. The system, shown schematically in Figure 1, has two modes of solar operation.

Mode 1 - Collector-to-Storage: This mode activates when a sufficient temperature difference exists between the collector surface temperature and the bottom of storage to activate a thermosiphon flow between collector and storage. The flow continues as long as the temperature difference is great enough to maintain the effect.

<u>Mode 2 - Storage-to-Load</u>: This mode activates when there is a demand for hot water replenishment from either the individual DHW tanks or the laundry tank. The system is pressurized by the city water system.

### II. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

### INTRODUCTION

The site was occupied during the month of February and the solar energy system operated continuously during the month. Solar energy satisfied 78 percent of the DHW requirements. The solar energy system provided electrical energy savings of 5.8 million Btu and fossil fuel energy savings of 3.8 million Btu.

### WEATHER CONDITIONS

During the month, total incident solar energy on the collector array was 30.3 million Btu for a daily average of 1342 Btu per square foot. This was below the estimated average daily solar radiation for this geographical area during

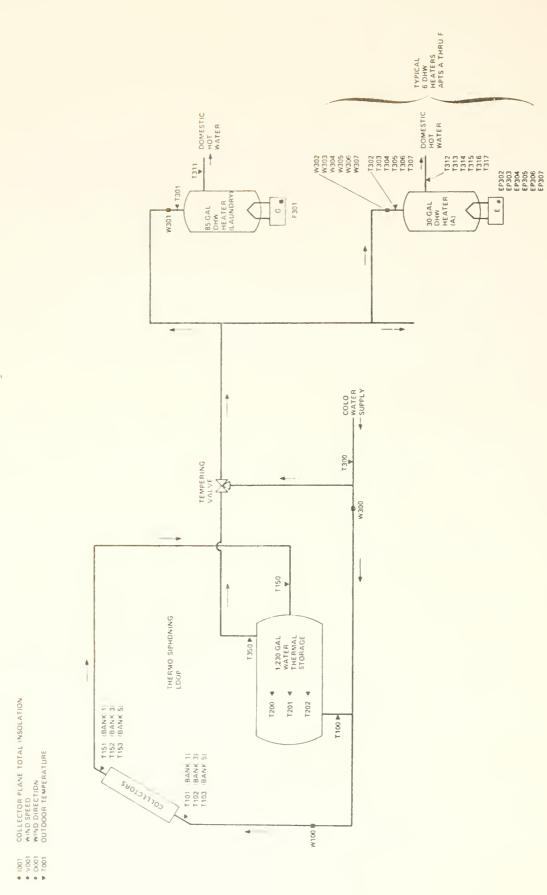


Figure 1. HEI WAI WONG SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM SCHEMATIC

February of 1620 Btu per square foot for a (south-facing) plane with a tilt of 24 degrees to the horizontal. The average ambient temperature during February was 71°F as compared with the long-term average for February of 72°F.

### THERMAL PERFORMANCE

System - During February the solar energy system performed somewhat better than expected. The expected performance was determined from a modified f-chart analysis using measured weather and subsystem loads as inputs. Solar energy collected was 9.2 million Btu versus an estimated 7.6 million Btu. Solar energy used by the system was estimated by assuming that all energy collected would be applied to the load. Actual solar energy used was 8.1 million Btu. System total solar fraction was 78 percent versus an estimated 74 percent.

Collector - The total incident solar radiation on the collector array for the month of February was 30.3 million Btu. During the period the collector loop was operating the total insolation amounted to 30.3 million Btu. The total collected solar energy for the month of February was 9.2 million Btu, resulting in a collector array efficiency of 30 percent, based on total incident insolation. Solar energy delivered from the collector array to storage was 9.2 million Btu. No operating energy was required by the collector loop as this is a thermosiphon collection-to-storage subsystem.

Storage - Solar energy delivered to storage was 9.2 million Btu. There were 8.1 million Btu delivered from storage to the DHW subsystem. Energy loss from storage was 0.77 million Btu. This loss represented 8 percent of the energy delivered to storage. The storage efficiency was 91 percent: This is calculated as the ratio of the sum of the energy removed from storage and the change in stored energy, to the energy delivered to storage. The average storage temperature for the month was 110°F.

DHW Load - The DHW subsystem consumed 8.1 million Btu of solar energy and 2.2 million Btu of auxiliary electrical energy and 0.19 million Btu of fossil fuel energy to satisfy a hot water load of 10.3 million Btu. The solar fraction of this load was 78 percent. No operating energy was required by the DHW subsystem. There was an electrical energy savings of 5.8 million Btu and a fossil fuel energy savings of 3.8 million Btu. A daily average of 662 gallons of DHW was consumed at an average temperature of 123°F delivered from the tank.

### OBSERVATIONS

The solar energy system operated under a modified configuration. Since February 1 the path of replenishment supply water was not directed to storage, but went through the collector loop first (see Figure 1).

### ENERGY SAVINGS

The solar energy system provided a total energy savings of 9.6 million Btu, apportioned into an electrical energy savings of 5.8 million Btu and a fossil fuel energy savings of 3.8 million Btu.

### III. ACTION STATUS

No action is required at this time.

## HEATING AND COOLING DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM SOLAR

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USER'S GUIDE TO THE MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE NATIONAL SOLAR DATA PROGRAM, FEBRUARY 28,1978, SOLAR/0004-78/18

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SOLAR HEATING AND COOLING DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

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